

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph at page 5, lines 17-26, to read as follows:

In Figure 2 a second variant of engine according to the present invention is shown. This engine has four cylinders 100, 101, 102 and 103, each cylinder having an intake valve "i", an exhaust valve "a" and an exhaust valve "b". The exhaust valves "a" and "b" at least are operated by hydraulic actuators 98a, 98b under the control of an electronic controller 99 (~~not shown~~). Each exhaust valve "a" can be operated independently from the exhaust valve "b" in the same cylinder.